

TO TAKE UP STRIKE SITUATION AT LABOR MEETING JANUARY 4—KLINE ISSUES STATEMENT

The following statement by Mr. Kline is a report of the strike to date, showing the progress the general offices are making, and denying that there have been any material deserting from the union ranks:

Important developments are expected to follow the meeting of the railroad department of the American Federation of Labor in this city January 4, and the strike situation on the Harriman lines and the I. C. will be one of the main considerations of the delegates.

Leaders of railroad crafts from all over the United States will be present, and it is believed that action for or against general strike of the railroad shop crafts in the west, will be definitely decided at the time.

Last week's meeting of labor leaders in St. Louis, is declared by President J. W. Kline of the Blacksmiths' to have been for the purpose of settling purely local troubles of the carmen there, and the general strike proposition did not receive serious consideration, though it was understood among outsiders that the meeting had been called for the latter purpose.

Until the railroad department meets here there will be no general conference of railroad union heads, and talk of a concerted strike has been shelved.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 23, 1911—
To the Harriman lines and Illinois Central strike committee.

Gentlemen and Brothers:

The greatest strike for the greatest principle continues unabated. It is truly a battle of the giants. The greater the principle involved, the harder our enemies fight us. The men of labor have their enemies both within and without, and they are very handy when it comes to giving advice or criticising those who are doing the work for them. We have all sorts of advisers. They come to us both in the daylight and dark. They tell us how we can win the strike and how we can't win it, and usually they wind up by telling us that Wall Street has contributed \$500,000,000 to defeat us. Those are the kind of advisers Job, the old Patriarch, had in his day; but let me say to the rank and file and to all others, that we are not into this game to be defeated even though they contribute \$500,000,000.

Possibly, we are not getting the earnest support of all of the leaders. Nevertheless, the men voted 97 per cent to strike, and we have struck, and we are going to stay struck until we have won the victory that will settle the federation question. If you have any men in your ranks with cold feet, advise them to take hot foot baths and put plenty of ginger in it, and if they have anything good to say, say it; if not, advise them to buy an aeroplane. We haven't the time to argue the right or wrong of this battle now; it's on. We have too many other matters to discuss. There is one thing the